

To: Field, Jeff[Field.Jeff@epa.gov]
From: Slugantz, Lynn
Sent: Wed 1/28/2015 3:39:41 PM
Subject: Urgent - please review for me

Brad and Jeff – please give me your comments by noon today.

Dear Dr. Gibbs:

Thank you for your December 10, 2014, letter regarding the West Lake Landfill Superfund site in Bridgeton, Missouri, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ongoing efforts to address the Site's potential risks. I understand that your national experiences working on behalf of communities inform your critical views about conditions at the site and the work being done by the EPA and our partners to keep the community protected. Knowing you and your work as I do, I value your candor.

I take seriously the concerns you have shared. The EPA considers community input at Superfund sites an integral part of the remedial process. And although I believe that the EPA's work at West Lake meets the scientific, legal and technical standards established by the laws and regulations that govern Superfund sites, I acknowledge the deep feelings expressed by some Site neighbors about the pace and direction of the remedial work.

The West Lake Landfill site presents complex scientific and engineering challenges. I agree with you on that point. However, EPA has a team of scientists and engineers in the region, our Office of Research and Development and Headquarters' Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response who are working together to ensure the right data are gathered and evaluated to support the decisions necessary to safeguard the health of this site's neighbors and all who work at and around the Site. Region 7 is leading the work at the West Lake site. I am confident that the Region 7 team, led by Regional Administrator Karl Brooks, is involving the right people inside and outside this Agency to make the best possible decisions at the Site. Those decisions might be unpopular with some residents, but they are based on sound science and the law.

I can also understand your concern with regard to the subsurface smoldering event (SSE) in the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill. Our EPA team will continue to work in partnership with the

Missouri Department of Natural Resources to analyze the subsurface smoldering event (SSE) data from the Bridgeton Landfill and what that data might indicate regarding the potential movement of the SSE. EPA will assess the SSE's potential influence on the hazardous substances in the West Lake Landfill and potential impact on the implementation of EPA's selected remedy.

The Agency remains committed to scientific rigor and public health protection in its CERCLA actions.

EPA's ongoing work toward a final remedy at the West Lake Site, as well as the work on the proposed isolation barrier, demonstrate our commitment to keeping the public protected from the radiological contaminants contained within the West Lake Landfill.

Thank you,

Lynn M. Slugantz

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